



Attorney Docket No. 58712 (70301)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Eberlein, et al.

CONF. NO.: 9936

APPLN SERIAL NO.: 09/764,936

ART UNIT: 3743

FILED: January 18, 2001

EXAMINER: Odland, Kathryn P.

FOR: FASTENING ASSEMBLY

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class mail addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on May 3, 2004.

By: *Helen Murray Tarbi*
Helen Murray Tarbi

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§1.97 and 1.98, applicant(s) hereby submit(s) an Information Disclosure Statement for consideration by the Examiner.

I. LIST OF PATENTS, PUBLICATIONS OR OTHER INFORMATION

The patents, publications or other information submitted for consideration by the Office are listed on PTO-1449, attached hereto.

05/07/2004 WABDEL11 00000024 09764936
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II. COPIES

a. Submitted herewith is a legible copy of (i) each U.S and foreign patent; (ii) each publication or that portion which caused it to be listed; and (iii) all other information or that portion which caused it to be listed.

III. CONCISE EXPLANATION OF THE RELEVANCE
(check at least one box)

a. Except as may be indicated below in (b), all of the patents, publications or other information are in the English language or were cited in a European Search Report.

b. A concise explanation of the relevance of all patents, publications or other information listed that is not in the English language is as follows:

c. The following additional information is provided for the Examiner's consideration:

FEES

IV. THIS IDS IS BEING FILED UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)
(check one box)

a. within three months of the filing date of a national application (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b) (1)). No fee or certification is required.

b. within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in §1.491 in an international application (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b) (2)). No fee or certification is required.

c. before the mailing date of a first Action on the merits (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b) (3)). No fee or certification is required. In the event that a first Office Action on the merits has been issued, please consider this IDS under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) and see the certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) below, or, if no certification has been made, charge our deposit account a fee in the amount of \$180.00 as required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).

V. **THIS IDS IS BEING FILED UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c):**
(check one box)

a. before the mailing date of a Final Office Action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.113
(See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) (1)) or before the mailing date of a Notice of Allowance under 37
C.F.R. § 1.311 (See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) (2)).

b. No certification; therefore, a fee in the amount of \$180.00 is required by
37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).

or

c. See the certification below. No fee is required.

VI. **CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)**
(check only one box)

The undersigned hereby certified that

a. each item of information contained in the IDS was cited in a
communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application not more
than three months prior to the filing of this IDS.

b. no item of information contained in the IDS was cited in a communication
from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the best of my knowledge
after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c)
more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

c. some of the items of info rmation were cited in a communication from a
foreign Patent Office. As to this information, the undersigned certifies that each item of
information contained in the IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a
counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS. As to
the remaining information, the undersigned hereby certifies that no item of this remaining
information contained in the IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a
counterpart foreign application or, to the best of my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry,
was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to
the filing of this statement.

VII. THIS IDS IS BEING FILED UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.97(d)

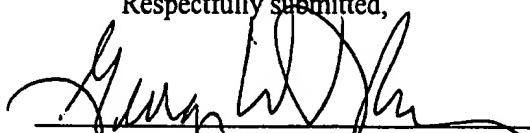
- a. after the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance but before the payment of the Issue Fee, and the requisite Certification, petition, and petition fee are included herein.
- b. after the mailing date of a Final Office Action under 37 C.F.R. §1.113
- c. see certificate above
- d. a fee in the amount of \$180.00 is required by 37 CFR §1.17(p)
- e. applicant hereby petitions that this Information Disclosure Statement is considered in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(d).

Enclosed is a check in the amount of \$180.00 for the above-indicated fee. Should any further fee be associated with the submission of this Information Disclosure Statement , the Commissioner is authorized to charge our Deposit Account No. 04-1105.

No fee is required.

If the Examiner has any questions concerning this IDS, he/she is requested to contact the undersigned. If it is determined that this IDS has been filed under the wrong rule, the PTO is requested to consider this IDS under the proper rule (with a petition, if necessary) and charge the appropriate fee to Deposit Account No. 04-1105.

Respectfully submitted,



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FORM PTO-1460 INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT		DOCKET NO: 58712 (70301)	APPLICATION SERIAL NO.: 09/764,936				
		APPLICANT: Eb rlin, et al.					
		FILING DATE: January 18, 2001	ART UNIT: 3743				
UNITED STATES PATENT DOCUMENTS							
EXAM. INITIALS		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES/NO
B1		0 355 035 B1	5/18/1994	EPO			Yes
OTHER DOCUMENTS (INCLUDING AUTHOR, TITLE, DATE, PERTINENT PAGES, ETC.)							
EXAMINER:				DATE:			

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